

72. Description of a New Sedentary Polychaete, *Thoracophelia ezoensis* n. sp.

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Thoracophelia is an aberrant genus, including 2 species, one from the South Pacific and the other from the Sea of Japan. The specimens referred to the present species were collected by Mr. M. Iwasa, of our Institute last year at Ésashi, Hokkaido, on the coast of the Okhotsk Sea. The description of the species is as follows.

Among the specimens examined by the writer, the largest specimen measured 30 mm, the cephalic and middle thoracic portions being 2.8 mm

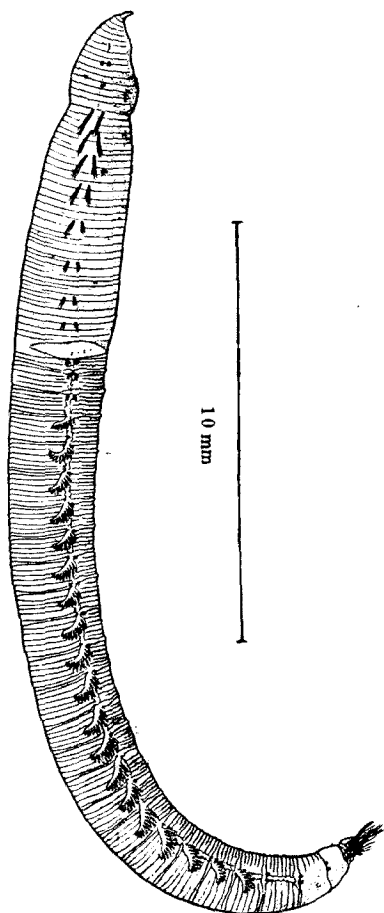


Fig. 1. *Thoracophelia ezoensis*
n. sp. Lateral view of
entire body.

and 6 mm respectively. The widest part of the body was 3 mm broad. The general shape of this worm is slenderer than that of the allied species, *Th. yasudai*. As usual in the genus the body is divided into 3 distinct regions, i. e. the anterior fusiform cephalic, the middle inflated and the posterior elongated portions. The prostomium is small and pointed anteriorly. A pair of nuchal organs is situated on the lateral portions on the anterior third of the cephalic portion. There are 2 chaetigers in the cephalic portion, the first composed of very short and faint setae-tufts, the second of fairly long, slender filiform setae. The middle portion of 8 chaetigers is arched above and about twice as long as the anterior portion, and lacks the ventral groove. The first 2 or 3 chaetigers bear fairly long, slender setae-tufts which are shorter posteriorly. Each of the segments is composed of about 5 annuli. The prominent lateral ridges, characteristic of the genus, also occur in the present species on the last segment of the middle portion of the body. On account of the presence of these lateral foldings the posterior portion is

well marked off from the middle portion. The posterior region of 28 chaetigers has a profound ventral sulcus. There are 19 pairs of pectinated gills, first occurring on the 13th setigerous segment, as usual in the

genus. The gills are quite different in form and number from those of *Th. yasudai*. They are all pectinate, wrinkled, not divided dichotomously, and the well developed ones bear about 13 finger-shaped branches starting from a main stem. The longitudinal ventral groove runs throughout the posterior portion, from the 11th to the 35th chaetiger. The last 7 setigerous segments are abranchiate. The 3 caudalmost segments are crowded together and bear fine, greatly elongated setae reaching far beyond the anal cirri. There are 10 lateral anal cirri and a single tongue-shaped median ventral cirrus. The setae are all very slender, flexible and thread-like. The presence of eyes and a sensory slit could not be ascertained.

Remarks: The present species is closely allied to *Euzonus arcticus* as regards the shape of the gills, but differs in the possession of lateral ridges on the middle body region. The species is undoubtedly referred to the genus *Thoracophelia* recently revised by the writer.¹⁾ Compared with *Th. yasudai* the present form differs in the number and shape of the gills, and in the number of the lateral anal cirri. The species was found embedded in a sandy bottom.

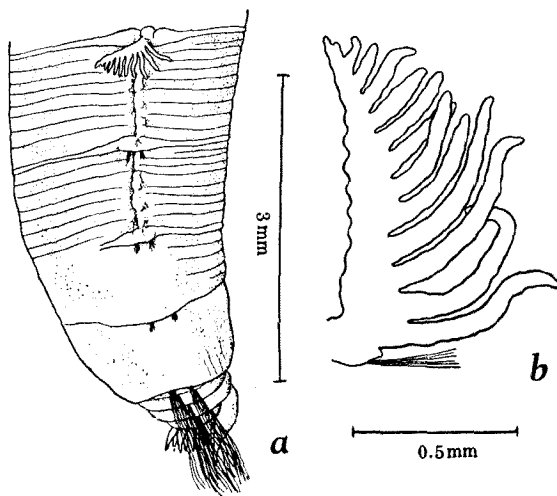


Fig. 2. *Thoracophelia ezoensis* n. sp.
a, Pygidium, lateral view.
b, Thirteenth gill.

1) Journ. Fac. Sci. Hokkaido Imp. Univ., Ser. 6, vol. 3, no. 3, 1934.